

Recognitions at February 2009 State Board Meeting

The National Association for Gifted Children recognizes the role that teachers play in identifying and developing gifts and talents in today's diverse student body. It supports nationwide efforts to provide training to ensure highly qualified teachers in every classroom.

One of those efforts is the Javits-Frasier Teacher Scholarship Fund. The award is named for the late Senator Jacob Javits of New York and the late University of Georgia educator Mary Frasier. Both pioneered efforts to provide diversity, equity and excellence in gifted education.

The fund provides teachers from schools that serve children from low-income households an opportunity to attend the association's convention. It also provides support for continued professional growth in the teaching of gifted students.

Scholarship fund recipients must:

- Teach in a Title I school;
- Demonstrate evidence of their commitment to advocate for and develop the gifts and talents of culturally and linguistically diverse students;
- Possess potential to serve as an educational leader for culturally and linguistically diverse gifted students; and
- Demonstrate a capacity to meet the learning needs of gifted students from diverse backgrounds.

One South Carolina educator is among the 15 teachers from across the country who received the award this school year.

- **LaQuandra Stevenson – Third Grade Teacher, Ridgeland Elementary School (Jasper County)**

State Superintendent Jim Rex (left in photo) and State Board member Dennis Thompson, Jr. (at right in photo) congratulate scholarship recipient LaQuandra Stevenson (third from right). She was accompanied by principal Sharyn Cox (second from right), mentor Jessie Tyler (next to Dr. Rex) and her mother, Alvonía Shepherd (third from left).

Stevenson received her award in Tampa at the annual convention of the National Association for Gifted Children.



- **Two State Board members honored for service**

State Superintendent Jim Rex and State Board chair Kristin Maguire congratulate Benjamin Mitchell (center, photo at right) for his service on the board representing the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit. Mitchell's term of office expired in December 2008.

In the photo below, Dr. Rex and Mrs. Maguire congratulate Diane Sumpter of Columbia, who represented the Fifth Judicial Circuit on the board. Her term of office expired at the end of December 2008, also.

